

MOUNTING.

Specimens may be mounted as either temporary or permanent preparations. Only poisoned specimens should be permanently mounted, and all permanent mounts should be done on sheets of standard size, so that, if necessary, exchanges may be made with other collectors in the Province or with botanical institutions abroad.

The size used in the principal and largest herbaria in the world is approximately 16½ x 10½ inches, which is the standard size in the Provincial Herbarium.

In mounting specimens the aim should be to display the plants as naturally as possible without attracting attention to the method by which they are fixed to the sheet. Permanent preparations should be glued, but no traces of glue should be visible.

Temporary preparations are usually fixed by narrow strips of transparent gummed paper such as is used in repairing books, etc.; some collectors sew them to the sheets with needle and thread, but this is not recommended.

No unpoisoned specimens should be glued to sheets; they may be fastened by strips of transparent gummed paper. Poisoned specimens when mounted on paper other than standard size should be similarly fastened, this facilitates remounting on standard size sheets later on. Specimens glued to sheets of less than standard size lose much of their value as herbarium preparations.

The glue used is liquid fish-glue; this may be applied by a brush to the underside of the plant. All parts of the plant which come in contact with the paper should be coated. The plant is then transferred to the mounting-sheet and laid under gentle pressure to keep the specimens in contact with the sheet till the glue dries.

When many specimens are to be mounted (sometimes the season's collection is laid past and mounted during the winter months) it is a good plan to get a sheet of glass about the size of the mounting-paper; smear this with a film of dilute glue; the specimens are laid one by one on the glass, the various parts being pressed—by the finger—into contact with the glue, then lifted off and transferred to the mounting-paper. In this way a hundred or more specimens may be mounted in one evening.

In mounting slender, delicately branched specimens the ordinary method generally results in marring the parts with glue. To avoid this, take a sheet of blotting-paper of the same size as the mounting-paper, arrange the specimens—lower side up—on this, and paint all parts with glue. Immediately dilute with water so that if any gets on the blotting-paper it will be readily absorbed. The sheet of mounting-paper is now laid over the glued specimens and pressed into contact by passing the hand over it. Both sheets—blotting-paper and mounting-paper with the specimens between—are lifted up and with a little pressure turned over so that the mounting-paper is lowermost; when the blotting-paper is removed the specimens will be found beautifully mounted, showing no discernible traces of glue.

In mounting stiff or woody specimens it is often found that the ends of the stems tend to leave the paper. It is a good plan, in such cases, to make a slit on the mounting-sheet immediately under the twig; a strip of strong paper is placed round the twig, through the slit, and glued at the back of the sheet. This saves disfiguring the sheets by showing strips of paper glued to it.

(7.) CLASSIFYING AND LABELLING THE SPECIMENS.

It is usual to classify herbarium specimens according to their natural order. All the species of each genus are placed in what is called a genus cover, which encloses the mounted specimens like the covers of a book. Genus covers are made of strong paper of any colour—brown, green, cream, or grey—and the name of the genus is placed on the left bottom corner. If there are too many sheets for one genus cover, certain species are placed together in one cover, and the rest in other covers similarly labelled on the corner.